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BUDGET LEAK

Big win for cities

Billions pledged for social, green infrastructure projects, transit

Ottawa appears ready to boost its share of the funding it provides municipalities as it looks to fast-track an infrastructure spending spree, Torstar News Service has learned.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau will take the wraps off the Liberals' first budget on Tuesday.

And sources say municipal officials can expect good news on two fronts: A change to the traditional one-third funding formula — at least for some projects — and financial help for the prep work needed to get those infrastructure projects off the ground.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday previewed the upcoming fiscal blueprint, saying his government has chosen "investment" over "austerity."

Trudeau also confirmed that the Liberals will use the upcoming

budget to roll back the age of eligibility for Old Age Security payments to 65 from 67 as promised, reversing a change introduced by the previous Conservative government.

The Liberals pledged a big hike in infrastructure funding during last year's election campaign — an extra \$60 billion over the coming decade. The budget will detail the government's plan to roll out the cash in two phases.

The initial phase, to be stretched over two years, will allow infrastructure cash to be spent on existing projects. Billed as "recapitalization," it will enable municipalities to tackle a backlog of unfunded work.

Trudeau confirmed Thursday that the government's initial focus will be on funding repairs to existing infrastructure.

"The first two years, we're going to do the unsexy things that governments hate to announce, recapitalization of infrastructure, maintenance, upgrades, the things that you don't get to cut a ribbon and announce a shiny new building on," the

prime minister said in an interview with Bloomberg.

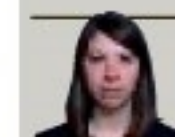
Typically, the cost of infrastructure has been split equally between municipalities, provinces and the federal government. But municipal leaders have appealed to the federal government to consider paying a greater share

— up to 50 per cent — with the provinces paying around 33 per cent and municipalities on the hook for 20 per cent.

It appears that appeal has hit home, with one source saying the one-third funding formula is a "thing of the past."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Water systems upgrades top Halifax list



**Haley
Ryan**
Metro | Halifax

Halifax's mayor says a boost in federal infrastructure money could save residents a hike in their water bill.

Mayor Mike Savage said Thursday it would be a "great day" to see the feds increase their share in infrastructure projects, and upgrades to trans-

sit, water and wastewater pipes and systems top his short-term list.

Replacing the aging system is already in the works, and the municipality has taken into account some federal money in their projections, Savage said.

"But if it's going to be significantly better than that, then it certainly would allow us over the years ... to look at not having to increase water rates as rapidly," he said.

It would be "ideal" to see immediate stimulus as well as long-term funding, Savage said, and quick funding investment would be good for contractors and create jobs.



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Chris Davidson tunes the piano inside St. Patrick's Church on Brunswick Street. The restoration society dedicated to renovating the church built by descendants of Irish immigrants says Archbishop Anthony Mancini and the archdiocese were misinformed when they said the church's new heritage classification would drive up costs. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

Heritage designation criticized

RESTORATION

Society says church can be upgraded for less than \$3M



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Despite the archbishop's concern, the society behind restoring St. Patrick's Church says the building is safe and upgrades can be made for "much

less" than the \$3 million stated.

Archbishop Anthony Mancini and the Halifax-Yarmouth archdiocese said last Friday they were dismayed that the Roman Catholic church received a municipal heritage designation because it would drive up costs needed with the space's "unsafe" conditions, but the St. Patrick's Church Restoration Society says that's misleading.

"We feel we can do the necessary stabilization work for much less than the three million," Andrew Murphy, chair of the society's building committee said Thursday inside

the Brunswick Street church.

Murphy, who also sits on the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia board, said the heritage designation is a great thing and it's a "myth" the church would

"This church is a great Canadian immigration story of hard work and determination. Andrew Murphy

need to be restored exactly as it was in 1885.

He added the trust accepts modern materials during restoration, and now the society can apply for certain federal

and provincial grants.

Immediate stabilization work to the steeple, bell tower, and front facade will be done over the next two years for about \$700,000 to \$800,000,

Murphy said, and the society has already raised a third of the cost.

"We've been raising on average \$130,000 a year so ... it's well within our capacity to

raise the money that's needed to make sure that this structure is both safe and stable for the next 100 years," Murphy said.

The congregation of roughly 450 people would not be using the church if it was unsafe, Murphy said, and the structure built by Irish descendants of those fleeing the Great Famine has been inspected annually by engineers and architects.

The \$3-million number refers to a full restoration of the church with timelines of 2020, 2025 and 2030, Murphy said.

That includes returning the 1920s stained glass windows to perfect condition, insulat-

ing the roof cavity, and turning the basement into a performance centre, which are all "nice things to have" but not necessary.

Murphy said they are in regular talks with the archdiocese and working to get them "up to speed" on what the heritage designation really means.

It's understandable the archdiocese might not have all the details since there are hundreds of churches that are in need of their attention, Murphy said.

"This one we think we have a handle on."



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'All about tradition and good times,' patrons say

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Residents turn favourite spots into a sea of green

Dylan DesRoche
For Metro | Halifax

Many Haligonians gathered at their favourite drinking establishments Thursday to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, with green drinks, green clothes and, of course, Irish music.

The Guinness and green beer were flowing freely at the Old Triangle Irish Alehouse in Halifax, with every seat in the watering hole filled by mostly green-clad patrons in the morning.

To many at the Old Triangle, St. Patrick's Day is about the party, but also celebrating Irish heritage.

"It's great to come out and have a good time with good people in honour of our heritage," said Tim, who was dressed in green from head to toe, including a large green hat embroidered with a shamrock.

Tim, who wouldn't give his last name, said on a normal day he's working in an office. But for this day he told his boss he couldn't make it.

"Normally I would never call in sick to work unless I



Dancers take to the floor at the Old Triangle to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Thursday. Right: A dressed up Evelyn Goguen laughs with some friends at the same venue. PHOTOS: JEFF HARPER/METRO

Green beer, great music, what's not to like.

Tim, a patron at the Old Triangle

really needed to, but it's a special day," he said.

"I work hard. I think a day off now and again is neces-

sary, being able to celebrate my heritage is a plus."

Sitting next to Tim was his pal Steve, who also wouldn't

give his last name, and who was playing hooky from work as well. The pair has celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a few green beverages for as long as they can remember.

"It's all about tradition and good times," said Steve, above the loud chatter around him.



POLICE

Man held for parole violation



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Police say a Dartmouth man with a previous conviction for sexual assault against a child was arrested this week for allegedly breaking the terms of his parole. He was spotted Wednesday in a parking lot outside a daycare, Halifax Regional Police said in a release issued Thursday.

Police said they spotted a gold van parked in a lot in the 500 block of Portland Street, Dartmouth, around 1 p.m.

When they approached the driver, the man behind the wheel was 55-year-old James Michael Snow of Dartmouth, police said in the release.

Snow has a lifetime order that "prevents him from attending a public park or public swimming area where persons under the age of 14 years are present or can reasonably be expected to be present, or a daycare centre, school ground, playground or community centre," the release said.

"The area where Snow was parked is the parking lot of a daycare as well as an indoor playground. He (Snow) was discovered by police based on a traffic stop," police spokeswoman Dianne Woodworth said in an interview.

On Metro's Facebook page, some readers questioned why Snow's photo had not been released. At least one said they would personally share an image of the alleged suspect.

WASTE COLLECTION NOTICE GARBAGE/ORGANICS/RECYCLABLES

Easter

Please be advised there will be no garbage, organics or recyclables collection services on Good Friday — March 25, 2016. Collection services for that day will be provided the next day, Saturday, March 26, 2016.

Collection services can begin as early as 7 a.m. To ensure collection please place materials curbside the evening prior to collection day.



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No Collection Good Friday March 25	➔	Collection will occur Saturday, March 26
Otter Lake Facility Closed Friday, March 25 Sunday, March 27	➔	Otter Lake Facility Open Saturday, March 26 Monday, March 28 7 a.m. — 7 p.m.
Municipal Recycling Plant Closed Friday, March 25 Sunday, March 27	➔	Municipal Recycling Plant Open Saturday, March 26 Monday, March 28 7:30 a.m. — 6 p.m.
Household Special Waste Depot Closed Saturday, March 26	➔	Household Special Waste Depot Open Saturday, April 2 9 a.m. — 4 p.m.



Nova Scotia's maximum reward was paid to a person whose tip helped put Ryan White's killer behind bars. CONTRIBUTED

Tipster gets big thanks

JUSTICE

\$150,000 given for info that led to murder to conviction



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

The province's maximum reward of \$150,000 has been paid out after a tip led to the conviction of the man responsible for Ryan White's death.

In July 2013, Halifax police got a tip through the Major Unsolved Crimes Program that helped them arrest and charge Kale Gabriel with the murder of White.

White was shot on July 22, 2010, in Halifax and later died in hospital.

His murder was added to the rewards program in July 2012,

and a year later the tip came in from someone with information that helped convict Gabriel of second-degree murder.

On Feb. 18, 2016, Gabriel was given a life sentence.

"My heart goes out to Mr. White's family and loved ones, and I hope this conviction has given them some closure," Justice Minister Diana Whalen said in a news release. It said the amount of the award is "determined by the importance of the information received."

The Major Unsolved Crime Program has been in place since 2006, and this is the second time the maximum amount has been paid out in Nova Scotia.

In 2014 the program paid the maximum reward to a person who came forward with information that was critical in solving the 2011 murder of Melissa Peacock. That tip led to the convictions of brothers Dustin and Joshua Preeper, who are now serving life sentences.

HIGH-SPEED CHASE

SIRT clears officer

Nova Scotia's police watchdog has cleared a Halifax police officer in his handling of a June 2015 pursuit that resulted in a crash that injured a teenage girl.

The Serious Incident Response Team report says the officer was trying to check a car parked at the lookoff in Herring Cove when its driver fled, reaching speeds estimated at over 100 km/h for about 700 metres.

The car went out of control

with the officer in pursuit and crashed into a ditch and hit a culvert before flipping on its roof.

Five people were inside; a 14-year-old girl sustained serious injuries, fracturing her ribs, back and pelvis. SIRT says while the speed of the pursuit was "somewhat high," it was short and late at night and there are no grounds for charges because the officer's actions were justified.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRIME

Arrest in indecency case

Police have arrested a man in connection with an indecent act that happened in Halifax on Wednesday. At 4:15 p.m. a woman was working in a business in the 1800 block of Hollis Street when she noticed a man, who had been inside the business earlier, standing on the street staring at her with his pants down.

The suspect is described

as bald and wearing a grey hoodie and beige pants.

The suspect was known to another employee at this business.

At 1:10 a.m. Thursday morning, Mark Jason Murray, 41, of Halifax was arrested without incident at an apartment in the 5000 block of Inglis Street.

Murray was scheduled to appear in court to face charges of performing an indecent act. METRO

RCMP charge pair with trafficking cocaine

Annapolis County RCMP have charged a man and a woman from Annapolis Royal with drug trafficking following a vehicle stop earlier this week.

Police stopped a vehicle on Hwy. 101 near Middleton Tuesday.

Officers arrested a man and a woman without incident.

Police said they seized

220 grams of cocaine, 7 grams of crack cocaine, and a quantity of cash from the vehicle.

Police then executed a search warrant at a home on Church Street in Annapolis Royal.

Twenty-three-year-old William Wallace Squires and 25-year-old Michelle Lynn Mailman, both of Annapolis Royal, were charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking cocaine. TC MEDIA

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Premier calls for feds to review sexual assault laws

CRIMINAL CODE

Move comes after man gets 90-day sentence

Premier Stephen McNeil is calling for Ottawa to review criminal code laws around sexual assault after one offender in Nova Scotia was sentenced to 90 days in jail for a violent sexual assault.

McNeil was reacting to the case of Mitchell Leeander Goodwin, who was sentenced last week to 90 days in jail to be served on weekends for sexual assault and uttering threats in 2012.

McNeil says although he doesn't know the details of the case, a 90-day sentence for sexual assault could be considered "offensive."

He says laws around sexual assault should be reviewed, adding there should be serious repercussions for sexual assault offenders. But Opposition Progressive



Premier Stephen McNeil speaks to the media earlier this week at Province House. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie says the provincial government

shouldn't be waiting for Ottawa to look at the criminal code.

He says the Liberals should review the laws and make rec-

ommendations for changes to the federal government.

EDUCATION

King's College names president

The University of King's College in Halifax has a new president and vice chancellor, the university announced Thursday.

William Lahey, associate professor at Dalhousie's School of Law, was appointed to the positions following a unanimous decision by the university's board of governors, a release on Thursday said.

Lahey, who earned his Master of Laws from the University of Toronto, received a unanimous recommendation from the university's presidential search committee.

"I understand and believe in the power of an education in the humanities combined with a small college community experience within a larger university context," Lahey said in a statement.

He will be the 25th president in King's College's 227-year history, and begins his five-year term July 1.

METRO

IN BRIEF

University receives \$350K for super microscope

Researchers at Cape Breton University are receiving \$350,000 in funding from the Canada Foundation of Innovation to advance laboratory space and purchase a super microscope. Once onsite, the

microscope, known as a Cyro-TEM will be the only one of its kind east of Montreal.

The microscope's cryo attachment is used to freeze liquid samples such as cells or soft material that can then be analyzed. Announced this week by federal Minister of Science Kirsty Duncan, the

funding is being awarded to CBU's Stephanie MacQuarrie, associate professor of organic chemistry; Matthias Bierenstiel, associate professor of inorganic chemistry; and Martin Mkandawire, industrial research chair in mine water management. TC MEDIA

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The remnants of a home destroyed by wind on Sable Island. PARKS CANADA/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wind challenges on Sable Island

HISTORY

Results of first archeological survey to be shared Tuesday

In the wind-blown sands of a narrow, crescent-shaped island off the coast of Nova Scotia, a Coke bottle from 1962 was found resting next to a prescription bottle from 1861.

The juxtaposition is telling of Sable Island's unique and challenging characteristics, said Parks Canada archeologist Charles Burke.

Burke said wind erosion has entombed many artifacts and structures on the sandy island — a National Park Reserve — and has scoured clean thousands of others, leaving them in plain sight.

"Usually an archeologist has to dig to get information. In this case, there's no digging required. All the artifacts are scattered on the surface," said Burke.

Burke conducted the island's first-ever systematic archeological survey in August 2015 and will share his findings on Tuesday during a lecture for the Nova Scotia Archeological Society.

The island, which sits roughly 300 kilometres southeast of Halifax in the Atlantic Ocean, was once inhabited by life-saving crews who rescued and re-

covered shipwrecks during the mid-19th to mid-20th century.

More than 350 vessels have been wrecked due to the rough seas, fog and submerged sandbars surrounding the island, earning it the title "Graveyard of the Atlantic."

Evidence of those early occupants — everything from pots, pans and toiletries to stoves, bathtubs and horseshoes — are sprinkled around the 42-kilometre-long island, said Burke.

But new evidence uncovered during the survey reveals that humans lived on the island as early as the mid-1700s, said Burke.

"That's a 100-year period — 1750 to 1850 — for which we have no knowledge currently as to why there was a structure there or people living in that area," said Burke. "This is new information and it's going to require additional research."

The island, known for its population of feral horses, is essentially a giant sandbar. Burke said the artifacts he found were once buried beneath the sand, but wind erosion has brought them to the surface.

Burke said that presents a challenge, as normally archeologists can date items by how deep they are buried in the ground. He said the wind also acts as a "sand blaster," which has removed many identifying markings or labels from items.

"The difference at Sable is that there has been no human

+ MAPPING

The data collected will allow Parks Canada to map areas that were occupied by humans and establish monitoring protocols to measure the impact of wind erosion and site exposure.

disturbance. There have been no machinery or shovels moving things around. The wind is the primary culprit and it has removed all the strata so now we have the old and new side-by-side," said Burke.

"This is a unique aspect of Sable Island and frankly it's a real challenge to make sense of it."

He said more research will need to be done to find out about the artifacts and paint a broader picture of the history of Sable Island.

The wind is also to blame for destroying some of the island's structures. A house near the location of the eastern life-saving station that was still standing in the early 1960s is now a pile of splintered wood, said Burke.

But the wind is also responsible for preserving structures. Another two-storey house is currently intact and completely buried in sand, he said.

"You don't have any opportunity to record the house because you can't see it anymore. It's now a sand dune," said Burke, adding he often had to wear goggles during his survey to protect his eyes from blowing sand. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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“It was completely unlike anything I've done in 40 years of archeology.”
Parks Canada archeologist Charles Burke

Teen balances acting, school

TELEVISION

17-year-old calls role on hit show 'incredible'

Ava Peill remembers her first taste of stardom well.

She was still in elementary school when she landed the lead role in *Paper Hearts*, a 2008 short film shot in Halifax.

"One of my favourite memories was the little sweets table. As a (fourth grader) I loved my sweets. They had an unlimited amount of whatever we wanted," the Canning resident recalls with a laugh. "I felt like a little star."

The sweets table may not have the same appeal it once had, but 17-year-old Peill is still enjoying every opportunity she has to get in front of a camera.

She's appeared in two short films, commercials for the 2010 Olympics and two television shows shot in Halifax.



Mr. D, starring comedian Gerry Dee, airs on CBC and is filmed in Halifax. CONTRIBUTED

My first episode was completely ad lib. It wasn't even planned.
Ava Peill

She scored a recurring role as private school student Lori on CBC's *Mr. D*, starring comedian Gerry Dee, in 2012.

"My first episode was completely ad lib. It wasn't even planned," she said.

"With ad lib you're on the spot and you have no idea what the other person is going to say, so you really have to listen and you have to make up something really good."

The off-the-cuff approach came naturally for Peill, who completed acting workshops in Halifax and New York.

Her ability to go off script — or without script — helped her stand out early on in her *Mr. D* days.

"It was my first day on set and I was a background character and they said, 'We want you to talk,'" she said.

"That was a huge accomplishment because they never do that."

Mr. D's summer filming schedule has made it possible for Peill to balance acting with school, part-time jobs, sports, dance, sailing and horse riding.

"It is absolutely incredible. It's my favourite job. People are so nice there."

TC MEDIA



Actress Ava Peill. CONTRIBUTED

+ PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Grade 12 student at Horton High School intends to enrol in a Bachelor of Science program after graduation.

She loves acting, but feels a career in the medical profession would offer more prospects considering recent developments in Nova Scotia's film industry.

"I haven't gotten one audition in the past eight months, and that's

extremely rare," she said.

She attributes the sudden changes in the industry to the provincial government scrapping the film tax credit, an incentive offering a significant rebate on production costs, in the spring 2015 budget.

"Last year I was cast in three different movies and they all came crashing down because of the film tax credit."

TC MEDIA

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LOTTERY

Chase the Ace to up security

Chase the Ace organizers say they have submitted a proposal to provincial gaming officials that they say will ensure the "security and integrity" of the local lottery that has grown so large.

Following Saturday's \$1.1-million draw that saw two winning tickets — the result of duplicates being sold — the Alcohol and Gaming Authority's division of Service Nova Scotia told local organizers to postpone the next draw until measures could be put in place to protect the game's integrity.

It's now scheduled to go ahead on March 26.

Stephen Tobin, a Chase the Ace spokesman and the business development manager at

the Horizon Achievement Centre, said he couldn't discuss the specific measures proposed but customizing the tickets or using "unique identifiers" could be one option.

Other possibilities are buying tickets from different suppliers and moving from a six-digit ticket system to one with seven digits to cut out the chance of duplicates.

"Those little generic tickets that people have come to know and appreciate as part of Chase the Ace are only six digits long, which means there's only the possibility to produce one million of each ticket number in each colour. Once you start to surpass \$1 million in sales it stands to

reason that you'll eventually run into some form of duplication," he said in an interview Thursday.

Tobin said this lottery has been run in the same manner with the same suppliers as other Chase the Ace lotteries, including the high-profile game played in Inverness last fall. There is no evidence pointing to fraudulent activity in last Saturday's draw, he said.

The Royal Canadian Legion began the lottery last spring with the hope of raising much-needed cash for the Ashby legion and its chosen charity, the Horizon Achievement Centre, which offers vocational training for people with intellectual disabilities. TC MEDIA

MUNICIPALITIES

County merger nets town \$5.3M

The province will provide \$5.3 million to support Parrsboro's union with the Municipality of Cumberland.

The agreement, signed Thursday, provides the money over five years to help with costs if the town dissolves and merges with the county. Parrsboro applied to the Utility and Review Board for dissolution in August.

"Looking at new governance structures is one way

that Nova Scotia municipalities can ensure strong, sustainable communities for their citizens," Municipal Affairs Minister Zach Churchill said. "This funding will help ensure Parrsboro residents continue to receive important services and enjoy their vibrant community."

If amalgamation goes ahead Nov. 1, more than \$3.4 million will support infrastructure, operating and cap-

ital investments for roads and transitional costs associated with dissolution.

Parrsboro's equalization funding will be frozen for five years at its current level, totalling more than \$1.8 million.

The details are in a letter of intent that will be presented as evidence at the March 30 hearing with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

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Lefty, who is homeless, sits on a sidewalk in Thunder Bay this month. He joins other homeless people at Shelter House for meals and a bed. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Housing promises good, says minister

POVERTY

Census on homelessness a reminder of campaign vows

The federal Liberals have no interest in backing away from an election promise to spend more on affordable housing, says Status of Women Minister Patty Haidu.

As communities across Canada engage in a first-ever federally organized and detailed census of homelessness, pressure on the government to act is mounting as community leaders better understand the stubbornness of the problem.

The Liberals have vowed to spend \$20 billion over the next 10 years on what the party calls "social" infrastructure, which includes shelters and affordable housing, as part of a broader



The men's dorm at Shelter House in Thunder Bay, Ont.
PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

commitment to infrastructure spending that was a central component of the party's election platform.

The details of how much the government will spend in the sector next year will be outlined in next week's budget.

The promised money has raised hopes that places like Thunder Bay, which Hajdu represents, will turn the corner on a chronic battle with poverty.

and homelessness. The homeless count revealed 17 homeless people died there last year.

Hajdu says the money should begin to cut long waiting lists for affordable housing.

"And those waiting lists as they reduce, will alleviate the incredible burden on all of these largely not-for-profit organizations that are making do with a partial funding model of government money and fundraising money and donations," Hajdu said in a recent interview.

Next week's budget, the first for the Liberals since they took office after the October election, is expected to detail how much of the extra infrastructure money will be available to communities and how they can use it. The Liberal campaign promise was for an extra \$5.1 billion in infrastructure spending this year, with \$1.7 billion destined for social infrastructure.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA

Tragedy on Parliament Hill

Emma Jackson
Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

An RCMP officer has died after apparently shooting himself Thursday morning in a Sparks Street building just steps from Parliament Hill and less than a block away from the prime minister's Langevin Block office, sources say.

Ottawa police — who have yet to confirm those details — said their officers rushed to the scene for a “medical call.”

Const. Marc Soucy said the call came in at 8:55 a.m. for an emer-

gency at 90 Sparks, the Thomas D'Arcy McGee Building. He would only say a person had been taken to hospital.

Up to 10 police vehicles were positioned around the building, which borders Metcalfe, Queen and Sparks streets.

The RCMP later tweeted the force had lost one of its own.

Paramedics spokesperson JP Trottier said his team "responded to a call near that area earlier this morning" and a person was taken to hospital.

He wouldn't comment on the person's injuries, saying the investigation is in the hands of

the police.

Police also cordoned off the Metcalfe side of the building, at number 33.

An investigator took photos of the side entrance and an RCMP vehicle that was parked on scene. Eventually, a tow truck picked up that car.

Ottawa Police Chief Charles Bordeleau pulled up on the Metcalfe side of the building in a white SUV.

He got out and shook hands with the two RCMP officers and OPS officer before driving off without speaking to the media.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

RETIREMENT AGE

Canada sticking to 65

Canada will keep its retirement age at 65, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says.

The Stephen Harper Conservative government had planned to raise the retirement age to 67, but Trudeau said that this won't be happening in next week's budget.

"Tweaking the age like that is a very simplistic solution — that won't work — to a complex problem," Trudeau said on Thursday morning in a question and answer interview with Bloomberg News in New York.

Trudeau said he prefers a "nuanced and responsible discussion" about retirement, arguing that investment bankers and lawyers don't put their bodies through the same physical strains as manual labourers. He defended his plans to invest in the middle class and said he's not worried about driving the wealthy out of the country.

"We have nothing against success in Canada," Trudeau said.

He acknowledged that Canada is on the other side of the fiscal debate than Germany and the United Kingdom, and said that Canada is in a strong position to take advantage of low interest rates through investment.

He said that Canada needs to diversify its economy and called climate change an opportunity for economic growth. He pledged that Canada will be "ruthless" to make sure carbon emissions are cut. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Tweaking the age like that is a very simplistic solution — that won't work — to a complex problem.

Prime Minister Trudeau

Trudeau tricky on Trump

NEW YORK

PM deftly skates around offering a real opinion of The Donald

Americans got to witness a Canadian visitor this week immersed in an activity his nation prides itself on having mastered: stickhandling. The person performing the pivots was Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The subject he repeatedly skated around: Donald Trump.

The prime minister was asked repeatedly during his visit to New York this week and in Washington last week what he thinks of the Trump phenomenon. He has answered each time without specifically mentioning the billionaire's name.

"I have tremendous confidence in Americans' capacity to get the right result through their electoral system," he said Thursday, echoing previous responses.

"I think we're going to see what Americans are made of in this upcoming election."

He curtly told a news conference at the United Nations on Wednesday that he had faith in the better angels of Americans' nature, paraphrasing Abraham Lincoln.

Later, he alluded to the U.S. election before a high-powered crowd. After receiving an award from a women's group at the Waldorf Astoria hotel, he said the reason he was able to introduce progressive policies like a gender-parity cabinet and welcome refugees was because his approach had won with voters.

"As much as I was able to do, and my government was able to do, we only did it because Canadians made a choice: to choose a more open, fair, positive way of doing politics," he told the ballroom crowd, which



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau takes part in an interview at Bloomberg headquarters in New York. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

included the heads of McDonald's, Campbell Soup, Shell, and the Carnival Corp.

He added, dryly: "That is certainly something that I hope resonates through political systems around the world."

That last line prompted laughter and perhaps his loudest applause of the evening — louder even than his references to the gender-parity cabinet, which is why he was invited to the gala and given the award from the women's group Catalyst.

Amid the claps, he added: "I'm not thinking of any place in particular!"

Several former Canadian ambassadors to the U.S. have publicly warned the prime minister not to talk about the U.S. election, saying it would be a mistake to turn Canada into

an issue in a messy election.

Trudeau's appearances before heading home later Thursday included an interview at Bloomberg, owned by Trump critic and former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg. Bloomberg wrote a laudatory piece about Trudeau this week headlined, Canada's New Hope.

There, he was asked again about what he would do if Trump becomes president. Trudeau replied that he understood why people were angry in many countries about the current political and economic systems and explained that he's working on democratic reforms and economic policies aimed at empowering frustrated voters.

With respect to a president Trump, he said he'd work on areas where they shared common ground. The interviewer



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump addresses a press conference on March 15. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

pressed him — what possible common ground could the Canadian progressive find with an American Republican talking about walls and ripping up trade deals and banning Mus-

lim visitors to the U.S.? Trudeau replied: "A desire to see Americans do well. A desire to see citizens in our countries to have better jobs and greater opportunities." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Susan Ormiston for The National

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Yazidis, their family displaced by ISIL attacks, stand in a temporary home in Zakho, Iraq, last year. GETTY IMAGES

ISIL is committing genocide, U.S. says

MIDDLE EAST

Declaration made official by congressional deadline

The Obama administration on Thursday formally concluded the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is committing genocide against Christians and other minorities in Iraq and Syria, a declaration long sought by Congress and human rights organizations but likely to change little in the conflict against the extremists.

The determination, for which Congress had set a Thursday deadline, does not oblige the United States to take additional action against ISIL militants and does not prejudice any potential prosecution against its members.

Officials said the U.S. has already intensified its fight against ISIL and had effectively recognized the situation as a genocide more than a year ago when it agreed to increase the number of refugees, notably from Syria, that the United States accepts.

A day after the State Department said the administration would miss the deadline because it needed more evidence, Kerry said Thursday that he had completed his review after all and determined that Christians, Yazidis and Shiite groups are victims of genocide and crimes against humanity by the Islamic State. The House earlier this week unanimously passed a non-binding resolution condemning ISIL atrocities as genocide.

Kerry outlined a litany of atrocities that he said the militants had committed against people and religious sites, as well as threats to eradicate what it terms apostates and infidels.



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry speaks on ISIL's crimes against humanity. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group, he said, "Daesh (ISIL) is genocidal by self-proclamation, by ideology, and by actions — in what it says, what it believes and what it does."

However, he added that he was "neither judge nor prosecutor nor jury with respect to the allegations." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIRUS

First Puerto Rican woman with Zika has healthy baby

Officials in Puerto Rico say the first pregnant woman on the island infected with Zika has given birth to a healthy baby.

Health Department spokeswoman Jillian Oliveras said Thursday that both are in good health. The mosquito-borne virus has been linked to microcephaly, which causes babies to be born with unusually small heads.

There are 21 pregnant women in the U.S. territory with Zika. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REFUGEE CRISIS

EU close to migrant deal with Turkey

European leaders struggled Thursday to reach a deal that balanced their concerns about legal protections for refugees and Turkey's human rights record with their desperate need to resolve the migrant crisis.

On the table was a tentative plan to send back to Turkey tens of thousands of would-be asylum seekers who set out by boat for the Greek islands, in exchange for concessions that would reward Ankara with billions of dollars in aid, unprecedented visa

access to Europe and promises of faster European Union membership talks.

Human rights groups and leading EU legislators decried the plan as a cynical cave-in, sacrificing universal rights to pander to a restless electorate fed up with hosting refugees.

"Turkey is really asking for a lot. I refuse to accept negotiations that sometimes resemble a form of blackmail," said Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cuba, U.S. and Canada in between

The coming week is historic for Cubans and Americans, starting with U.S. President Barack Obama's two-day visit to Havana on Monday and Tuesday — the first by a U.S. president since 1928. It ends with a free, open-air concert by the Rolling Stones on Friday.



Cuban President Fidel Castro and Pierre and Margaret Trudeau look over a photo album during the Trudeau's 1976 state visit to Cuba. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Spotlight on CUBA

Stephen Kimber



In the spring of 2013, U.S. and Cuban negotiators needed a neutral location for secret talks that would lead — 18 months later — to the stunning Dec. 17, 2014, announcement the world's two "closest of enemies" were re-establishing relations. The only thing they could agree on initially, however, was that those talks should take place in friendly-with-both Canada.

Now, ahead of U.S. President Barack Obama's historic visit to Cuba, it's worth asking what the fast-evolving relationship between Washington and Havana — which we helped, in our modest way, to facilitate — will mean for the future of our own historic ties with Cuba.

After Fidel Castro's revolution triumphed in 1959, Canada was one of the few Western nations to maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba. In 1976, then-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau became the first NATO leader to visit.

For Canada, that visit became a symbolic moment in our quest for an elusive, independent "third-way" foreign policy, untethered to the United States or Great Britain. For Cuba, it was an important symbolic moment too — international recognition of its legitimate place in the world. "Viva Cuba!" Trudeau declared.

The visit had another far-reaching consequence too. Trudeau and Castro became such warm personal friends that, in 2000, the Cuban leader — by then ailing himself — flew to Montreal to serve as an honorary pallbearer at Trudeau's state funeral.

Although relations cooled during the Harper era — the Conservative government opposed Cuba's mere presence at events like the Summit of the Americas — the Cubans did not easily forget Canada had been its friend when others were not. In 2010, during Canada's unsuccessful bid for a seat on the UN Security Council, Cuban diplomats even openly lobbied on our behalf with their Latin American counterparts.

Thanks to the 55-year-old American embargo, which has effectively prevented Amer-

icans from trading with — or travelling to — Cuba, and to the 1990s collapse of Cuba's Soviet Bloc benefactors, Canada has had unparalleled access to the Caribbean island nation.

Calgary's Sherritt International — which boasts mining, oil-and-gas and electricity interests there — is now Cuba's largest foreign investor. And the million sun-seeking Canadians who fly south every winter to enjoy the island's spectacular beaches currently represent Cuba's largest source of foreign tourists. Cuba even hosts the largest Terry Fox run for cancer research in the world outside Canada.

With American businesses and individuals eager — and increasingly able — to share Cuba's long-forbidden fruit, Canada's role in Cuba will inevitably diminish. But it's worth reminding ourselves of that sweet 2010 moment at the United Nations when Cuba unexpectedly stood up for us. "You can trust Canada," said Cuba's Ambassador Pedro Nunez Mosquera.

Cubans do have long memories, and they won't forget who their friends have been.

Stephen Kimber is the author of nine books, including *What Lies Across the Water: The Real Story of the Cuban Five*, and a columnist at Metro Halifax.

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Pedro Nunez Mosquera, in 2010

Pet clothing sales feel chill of milder winter

RETAIL

Companies forced to lay off employees and cut prices

An unseasonably warm winter in Eastern Canada and a weak economy have taken a big bite out of sales from businesses that cater to furry best friends, the pet products industry says.

"For us, it's a big hurt," said Marianne Bertrand, owner of Mutluks. The Toronto-based company estimates that sales of doggie coats and boots have slipped by more than 30 per cent this winter.

Mutluks, whose boots were recently given to U.S. President Barack Obama's dogs by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during his state visit, was forced to lay off about a dozen employees when it prematurely shut production late last year.

Montreal pet store Doghaus said the warm winter prompted it to slash its prices in half and it plans to offer even deeper discounts to help clear inventory. "It wasn't a wasteland or anything, but it definitely was lighter than other years," said manager Sarah Miller-Barrington.

Industry surveys have suggested that most pet owners are willing to spend extra for the best products available, including food, even if they are more expensive.



Sarah and her dog Fergus in the Doghaus pet supply store in Montreal. An unseasonably warm winter in Eastern Canada and a weak economy have taken a big bite out of sales from businesses that cater to furry best friends, the pet products industry says. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

\$7 billion

What the pet business is worth annually, including food, clothing, accessories and trips to the vet, according to the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada.

Like many of her customers, Miller-Barrington says she tends to "mother" her eight-year-old Shetland Sheepdog named Fergus, even though

his heavy fur coat protects him from the elements.

Just as parents outfit their children for the cold, many people feel the same obligation to their pets, she added. Others simply view it as an opportunity to make a fashion statement by finding a fun new dog coat each year.

K9 Excel owner Johanne Beaulieu said she hasn't seen this level of sales decline in the six years she's operated the Montreal store and website, which sells clothes, boots, and dog diapers.

Buyers aren't just the wealthy — they come from all walks of life, Beaulieu said. "It's people for whom an animal is their baby," she said.

A weaker economy, especially in Western Canada, has also contributed to diminished sales of pet products, says Louis McCann, CEO of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada. Clothing and boots are highly dependent on weather but the health of the economy plays a more important role in purchasing decisions, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SHARING ECONOMY

B.C. hot spot cracks down on Airbnb



Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

One of B.C.'s hottest tourism destinations plans to crack down on unlicensed nightly home rentals on websites such as Airbnb in a bid to improve affordability and housing availability for long-term residents.

District of Tofino councillors voted this week to immediately educate people about and enforce regulations surrounding bed and breakfasts and short-term rentals, which have flourished since Airbnb entered the scene two to three years ago. During the same time, rents went up and long-term rentals became harder to find, according to the motion by Tofino Mayor Josie Osborne.

Home rentals have been allowed in Tofino for a decade if the owner gets a business licence — these cost up to \$375 — but this rule is often ignored and is only enforced on a complaint basis, Osborne said.

Council is concerned Airbnb listings take apartments off the

market for seasonal tourism workers in the hot spot that was featured in the New York Times twice last year.

In focus groups conducted by the district, they found that short-term rentals are "critical" for property owners to be able to afford to buy in Tofino in the first place. Tofino's population was 1,876 in the 2011 census.

But anecdotal evidence has made council suspicious that the conversion of long-term rentals to short-term rentals is leading to evictions and higher rents, Osborne said.

Vancouver is expecting staff to report back this fall on how to handle Airbnb, Coun. Geoff Meggs said. "The priority concern is it could be soaking up rental housing," he said, adding public safety is also a concern.



The ... concern is it could be soaking up rental housing.

Coun. Geoff Meggs

IMPORTS

Liberals under pressure to raise duty-exempt limit

With its maiden budget just days away, the new Liberal government is facing pressure to bump up Canada's duty-exemption limit from its current level of \$20 for products shipped or mailed from abroad.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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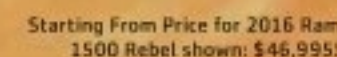
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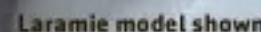
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SCIENCE FRIDAYS

DECODED Biological recycling

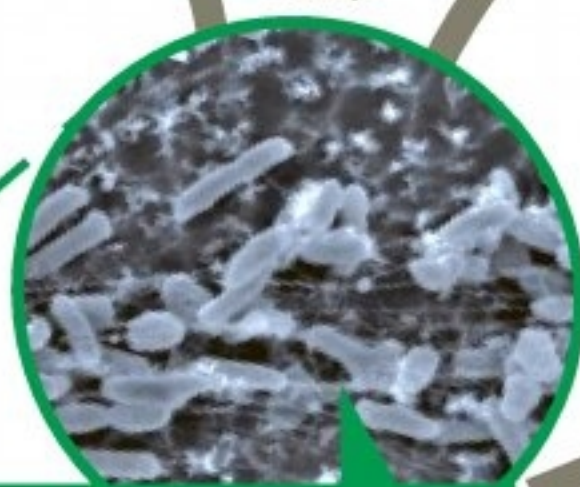
MICROSCOPIC MEALTIME

Did you crack a bottled soft drink today? Chances are it was made of PET, a super-durable plastic made from crude oil. Unlike organic waste, PET doesn't get broken down by bacteria (biodegraded) in the environment — at least, we didn't think so. Scientists have discovered a bacteria species that eats PET for lunch, and, with it, a potential way to **tackle one of the most perplexing pollution problems of our time.**

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PETase, which
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BRILLIANT IDEONELLA
Scientists from Keio University in Tokyo slogged through the sludge at a PET recycling yard and found a strain of bacteria previously unknown to science: *Ideonella sakaiensis* 201-F6. It evolved to use plastic as a source of food. It can break down a thin, 60 mg film of PET in six weeks at 30 C, turning it into two chemicals that are relatively environmentally benign. The process is still too slow to apply on an industrial scale, but this is a start.

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MHET

MHET

1 Bacteria makes enzymes (proteins that break things down).

Enzyme #2
MHETase, which breaks down MHET

3 MHETase breaks down MHET into two environmentally friendlier chemicals, TPA and EG.

TPA
(terephthalic acid)

EG
(ethylene glycol)

4 Bacteria further breaks down EG and TPA into food for its carbon and energy needs. Yum!

GRAPHICS BY ANDRÉS PLANA/METRO

FINDINGS

Your week in science

Dengue vaccine

Doctors at Johns Hopkins University have announced a 100-per-cent successful clinical trial of a vaccine for dengue, one of the most common — and most feared — mosquito-borne diseases on Earth. (It's not called "bone-break fever" for no reason).

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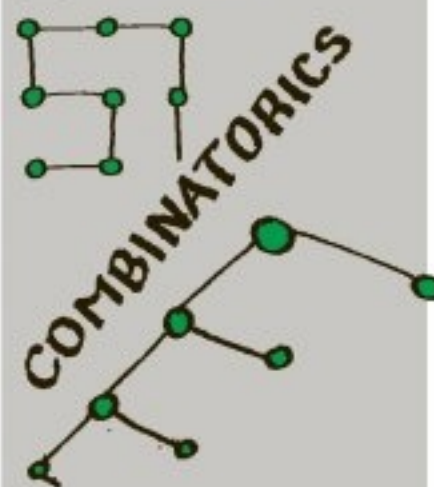
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DEFINITION

Combinatorics is the science of countable combinations.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE

"Hmm. How many crazy eights does Mabel likely have in her seven-card hand? I know, I will do some calculations using elementary **combinatorics** to figure it out."

CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

Do chimpanzees believe in God?



QUESTION

Whoa. Chimps build shrines? Does this mean humans aren't the only species with religion? — Colin, Toronto

You know, Colin, it wouldn't surprise me. Chimpanzees have been observed using tools, warring among rival groups and dancing in the rain. They're known to practise a sort of communal chilling-out after meals that's been compared to gathering for worship. However, I don't think

there's conclusive evidence of chimp spirituality in the recent Nature paper you're talking about. It describes chimps caught on camera repeatedly and deliberately hurling rocks at trees and leaving distinctive stone piles (shrines?) around the forest. It didn't seem to be a mating ritual. It wasn't about food. There was no obvious evolutionary reason for it at all. The authors suggested it *could* be symbolic, or even sacred.

But very careful further study is needed, I think, be-

cause researchers have to fight the tendency we all have to *anthropomorphize*, or ascribe human characteristics to non-humans. It's one of our powerful cognitive biases (in-born patterns of flawed reasoning).

That said, this study made me think of a conference I went to where psychiatrist Martin Brüne presented findings about a possible PTSD-like syndrome in chimpanzees.

Brüne showed a video of a retired research chimp curled into a ball, rocking back and

forth and hitting himself, much like I'd once seen a child with autism do, mid-tantrum. It looked eerily human.

The moderator said chimps continually exceeded his expectations: He always found they were more smart, more complex and more self-aware than he'd thought.

So I'd be open to the idea that our closest living relatives are into human-like things, such as prayer.

But we need to see more evidence first.

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Where are all the movie stars?

ANALYSIS

Marketing trumps man in today's big studio films

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



Where have all the movie stars gone?

Once upon a time big names on even bigger marquees were as close to a guarantee of good box office as one gets in the movie biz. But no more.

This weekend *The Divergent Series: Allegiant*, the third part of the young adult series, hit theatres. Based on the successful books, it stars Shailene Woodley and Theo James in a teen epic about dystopia, guilt and artfully tossed pixie haircuts.

In the new film the pair risk it all to go beyond the walls of their shattered city to discover the truth about their troubled world.

Woodley and James are appealing performers and despite having chiselled cheekbones and earning accolades (they won the Teen Choice Award for best liplock in *Insurgent* and Woodley was a Golden Globe nominee for *The Descendants*), no one is going to see *Allegiant* because they're in it.

Why? Because they're not movie stars — they're brand ambassadors.

The movie's brand is big-

ger than they are and that's the draw.

Young adult movies like *Twilight* made Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart famous and superhero films reignited Robert Downey Jr.'s career and turned Chris Hemsworth into a sex symbol, but none of these actors have scored recent hits outside of their best-known brands.

These days the marketing is more important than the movie star.

It's almost a throwback to the very early days of cinema when actors weren't given billing or publicized for the films they made.

Fearing performers would demand larger paycheques if they became popular, the studios gave them nicknames instead.

Hamilton, Ont.-born Florence Lawrence was known as the Biograph Girl, named after the studio that produced her films, but with the release of *The Broken Oath* in 1910 became the first entertainer to have her name appear in the credits of a film.

Floodgates opened, soon names like Mary Pickford (another Biograph Girl), Douglas Fairbanks and Charlie Chaplin festooned not only movie credits but posters as well, usually above the title.

The studios seized the marketing value of their actors and for years the star system was a money-spinner.

These stars were so powerful they not only sold tickets by the fistful but also influenced contemporary trends.

For instance, it's rumoured



The Divergent Series is proof you don't need big names if you've got a big brand. CONTRIBUTED

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

The Divergent Series: Allegiant Part 1 ★★
The Program ★★
Chi-Raq ★★★★★
Knight of Cups ★

HOW RATING WORKS
 ★★★★★ SEE IT
 ★★★★★ WORTHWHILE
 ★★ UP TO YOU
 ★ SKIP IT

that sales of men's undershirts plummeted in 1934 when *The King of Hollywood*, Clark Gable, was seen without one in *It Happened One Night*.

As the legend goes, sales took such a hit several under-

wear manufacturers tried, unsuccessfully, to sue Columbia Pictures for damages.

For decades stars ruled supreme at the box office, but the business has changed. I'm guessing the movie studios

love it because no film brand ever asked for more money or a bigger trailer.

Certainly Tom Cruise can still sell a ticket or three, but only if his movie has the words *Mission Impossible* in the title and Matt Damon was brought back in to add star sparkle to the new *Jason Bourne* movie after a lackluster reboot with Jeremy Renner. Jennifer Lawrence is a movie star. Her latest film *Joy*, the empowering story of a woman and her mop, wasn't a big hit but without her star power would likely

never have been made at all.

But former sure bets like Will Smith, Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie cannot always be counted on for big returns.

It's not just the movie business's attitude toward fame that has changed, it's also ours.

Today a proliferation of YouTube superstars and social media has democratized fame and in a world and business where everyone is famous, no one truly is, not even the stars of a blockbuster such as *The Divergent Series: Allegiant*.

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DIVERGENT Q&A

Zoe Kravitz on indie roles and nerds



Shailene Woodley (Tris, left) and Zoë Kravitz (Christina) star in *The Divergent Series: Allegiant*. CONTRIBUTED

Zoe Kravitz is gearing up for one more Divergent film after this latest instalment, *Allegiant*, hits theatres. But she might be able to squeeze in another hip indie — like last year's *Dope* — before heading back to finish off the YA dystopian series.

You are three movies into a four-movie series. How do you approach this section?
Yeah, it's interesting, it's kind of like going home again. I feel like I know this character so well now that, I know how she reacts to things, I know how I want her to evolve. But then you read the script and you go, "OK, this is a moment. How do I make that part of her come through?" I feel like that's where the work comes in.

What were some of those moments for this one?
I actually really enjoyed how quiet she is in this film. I think there was a lot of angst in her in the first film, but there was an immaturity there. Now so much has gone on, there's been real loss, real death, real killing, real revolution, so I think it's kind of shut her up in a really interesting way, where she's focused.

Do you know what happens going forward?
Yeah, I read the books, but I try not to dwell on it because once we've gotten the script that has got to be your focus, because you can't dwell on the things that aren't in there, you know what I mean? You're kind of

like "OK, this is now what we're working with."

You go between these massive franchises and very interesting smaller films. How do you navigate that?
It's about if the story reflects something that I feel like I haven't seen or want to see more of or want to be a part of. It doesn't really come down to, "OK, I'm gonna do a really cool indie film, and I'm gonna do a big franchise film," you know? *Mad Max*, I loved the story. *Divergent*, I loved the story. *Dope*, I loved the story.

You've described yourself as a nerd. Why?
I'm a very nerdy person. Acting for me came from musical theatre, which some people might not think is nerdy. But it was not the coolest group of kids at school, it just never is. In all of the schools that I ever went to, that was my crew. I was in every play that I could get near and always singing in three-part harmony with my friends. I have that very campy part of myself. I was not the coolest kid in school, so I consider myself a nerd.

But nerds have really come into their own.
Yeah, I think people are beginning to not only accept but be intrigued by the less obvious things in life. It's not that we're less nerdy, we just don't care as much. Or people are not so quick to judge, hopefully. Nerds are more interesting, right?

NED EHRBAR/METRO

Actor defends cyclist Lance Armstrong

FALLEN SPORTS HERO

Ben Foster had to learn about doping culture for role in film

After enduring an intense exercise regime, secretly using performance-enhancing drugs, and immersing himself in the world of Lance Armstrong to portray the cyclist on the big screen, Ben Foster was left with one feeling for the controversial athlete.

"Empathy," said the actor. "It was a complicated time. He's a complicated man."

It's a feeling Foster hopes audiences can also come away with after watching *The Program*, which tracks Armstrong's incredible cycling career and the behind-the-scenes doping that drove it.

Armstrong, a cancer survivor and longtime athlete, was once an American sporting hero, but is now a divisive figure.

He has been banned from cycling for life and had his seven Tour de France titles stripped after telling Oprah Winfrey in a 2013 interview that he used performance-enhancing drugs.

Foster knew the barebones of Armstrong's story before making *The Program*, which was directed by British filmmaker Stephen Frears. But playing the athlete made him appreciate the broader culture of doping that existed in cycling at the time.

"He did doping better. He did nutrition better. He did the cycling gear better. He did training better. It's not about being a liar. If everybody's doping, everybody's lying," Foster said, noting that Armstrong also raised millions for cancer research over the course of his career.

"He treated people in a particular way that I don't necessarily agree with but the complexity of the good that he did, with the way that he did it, deserves a deeper consideration."

To properly capture Armstrong's intensity, Foster — unbeknownst to the rest of his cast, but under the supervision



Ben Foster stars as Lance Armstrong in *The Program* directed by Stephen Frears. CONTRIBUTED

OPENING IN CANADIAN CITIES
The Program opens in Toronto, Calgary, Ottawa, Vancouver and Montreal on Friday.

of a doctor — took performance-enhancing drugs himself and only revealed what he had done after filming had wrapped.

He also tried to reach out to Armstrong, but the athlete wasn't interested in talking.

Foster nonetheless describes himself as a fan of Armstrong's, saying he found himself defending the cyclist on the set of the film.

"We don't like that Lance didn't apologize in a way that felt sincere. And that's why we're punishing him still," he said. "I don't condone or condemn ... I think it's a complicated story." THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANOTHER TAKE

Lance fascinating person to watch, says O'Dowd

Chris O'Dowd, who plays David Walsh, an Irish journalist who worked to bring Armstrong's doping into the spotlight, agreed that the cyclist is a complex character and noted that the film attempts to provide a better picture of the intricacies of his world.

"He was an incredible athlete, very manipulative,

vindictive, self-centred, very smart, and ego driven," he said. "I think he's a fascinating person to watch."

O'Dowd's personal feelings about Armstrong, however, tend to waver.

"At times I feel slightly sorry for him. But then I think of how he treated some people ... and I think, 'I don't know if he needs our sympathy,'" he said. "I think he's a fallen hero, but still a kind of hero."



[Lance Armstrong] treated people in a particular way that I don't necessarily agree with but the complexity of the good that he did, with the way that he did it, deserves a deeper consideration.

Ben Foster on the controversial sports hero

Spike Lee's take on Chicago gang violence

INTERVIEW

Chi-Raq inspired by ancient Greek play

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



"The human spirit is a great thing," says director Spike Lee on what he learned while doing research for his new film. The director spent six months in South Side Chicago, "talking to people, meeting people, getting the lay of the land," before shooting a single frame of his anti-gang-violence movie Chi-Raq.

"It was very important, not just meeting people, but people becoming comfortable with me. People opening up to me."

The movie draws its story about a neighbourhood woman who convinces the wives and girlfriends of gang members to withhold sex from their men until the guys agree to put down their weapons from a Greek play first performed in 411 BC, but details the very modern problem of gun violence.

"At the end of the movie in that scene where everybody is dressed in white," says Lee, "those women are not actresses. Those women are members of a group called Pain Over Purpose. They are mothers whose children, whose sons and daughters, have been shot down in the streets of Chicago. Those pictures they are holding up are pictures of their loved ones."

"The pain of a parent who has lost a child in any circumstance is something that no parent should



Lysistrata (Teyonah Parris) is the woman who leads the move to withhold sex from men in Chicago's South Side until the gun violence stops in Spike Lee's new joint Chi-Raq. CONTRIBUTED

have to go through.

"They all say that there is a hole in their spirit, in their soul, that will never be replaced."

"Many of those mothers have tried to commit suicide and had various other problems since then but they are holding strong."

The cycle of violence portrayed in the film and acted out for real on the streets — during Chi-Raq's 38-day filming schedule 331 people were wounded and shot, 65 people were murdered in Chicago — was personal for one of the movie's stars.

"Do you know Jennifer Hud-

son's history?" asks Lee. "It is known knowledge that Jennifer's mother, brother and nephew were murdered in Chicago. I think that's extra gravitas that you have with Jennifer Hudson in this film. This is not an act for her. She got hit directly by gun violence on the South Side of Chicago."

"I didn't want her to think that I was exploiting her. I knew I wanted her for the part but there was some length of time before I got the courage to approach her."

"Also, when we did meet I was babbling. She said, 'Spike, I know why you want me to do

this film, so just stop. I'll do it.' I was trying to be sensitive and I turned out to just beat around the bush. I said, 'I'll just shut up and say thank you.'"

Lee is fearless in his handling of the material, taking chances narratively — the entire film is presented in verse — and visually, to tell the timely and hot-button story of a "self-inflicted genocide."

Finding the mix of heartfelt storytelling and satire, says Lee, was crucial to the success of the film.

"It is not an easy thing to do," he says.



“

They all say that there is a hole in their spirit, in their soul, that will never be replaced

Spike Lee on parents who have lost children to gun violence

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- 5 Meghan Trainor No
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- 3 Rihanna ft Drake Work
- 2 Zayn Pillow Talk
- 1 G-Eazy ft Bebe Rexha Me, Myself and I



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How the stars brought golf to Palm Springs



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CALIFORNIA

Desert oasis a top place to tee-off

Brian Kendall
For Metro Canada



Golf and Palm Springs go together like Bob Hope and Bing Crosby.

Hope, Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and other celebrity golfers helped popularize the game in a desert oasis famous as Hollywood's Haven.

Just 193 kilometres east of downtown Los Angeles, Palm Springs provided a welcome es-

cape from the city's smog and congestion. The stars came to bask in the abundant sunshine and delight in the starkly dramatic scenery of the Coachella Valley.

With more than 110 courses, golf remains a major draw throughout a popular sunbird destination that works hard to retain its ring-a-ding 1950s vibe. Between tee-offs, budget time for a tour of the sleekly elegant midcentury modern hotels and civic buildings, shopping on posh North Palm Canyon Drive, and a happy hour cocktail at Melvyn's, one of Sinatra's old haunts.

Golf came to the Coachella Valley in 1925 with the opening of O'Donnell Golf Club, a

private course frequented by Clark Gable and other matinee idols.

Today, courses by acclaimed golf architects are scattered throughout Greater Palm Springs, an area encompassing old Palm Springs and eight seamlessly connected sister communities, most notably La Quinta, Palm Desert and Indian Wells.

Former host of the Bob Hope Classic, SilverRock Resort's Arnold Palmer Classic Course in La Quinta is spectacularly routed along the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains. La Quinta is also home to PGA West, one of North America's premier golf properties. Most famous of the resort's six layouts is

the Stadium Course, a Pete Dye-designed monster rated one of the game's best — and toughest — courses.

A highlight in Palm Desert is Shadow Ridge Golf Club, an expertly sculpted Australia Sandbelt-inspired course by Nick Faldo. Equally strong are the two Hurdzan-Fry designs at Desert Willow Golf Resort.

And the must-play in Indian Wells is the Players Course at Indian Wells Golf Resort. This unyielding John Fought design stretches nearly 7,400 yards from the tips.

Other top courses include Eagle Falls Golf Course, Escena Golf Club, the Pete Dye and Gary Player layouts at Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort and Spa, and Shadow Mountain Golf Club, one

of the few courses designed by the legendary Gene Sarazen.

With street names like Jack Benny Road, Gene Autry Trail and Ginger Rogers Road, even the drive to your next tee time or sightseeing excursion becomes more adventure than chore in this celebrity obsessed burg.

Sunnylands, at the intersec-

tion of Frank Sinatra and Bob Hope Drives in Rancho Mirage, is another notable haunt of Hollywood luminaries past and present.

Built in the 1960s for publisher, diplomat and philanthropist Walter Annenberg, the pink-roofed Desert Modernism-style mansion (complete with a nine-hole golf course) is now open to the public.

Presidents from Eisenhower to Obama have visited. When greeting Queen Elizabeth in 1983, Annenberg announced she would "see how ordinary Americans live."

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CIS BASKETBALL FINALS

The defending champion Carleton Ravens advanced while the third-ranked Ottawa Gee-Gees were eliminated in an upset Thursday by the Dalhousie Tigers on the opening day of the Canadian Interuniversity Sport men's basketball tournament in Vancouver.

Ryan Ejim had 26 points, leading the Ravens to a 91-75 win over Thompson Rivers. The first upset of the tournament happened shortly after, when Ritchie Kanza Mata scored 24 in Dalhousie's 87-83 win over Ottawa. Dalhousie now advances to face the Ravens on Saturday.

Kasrell Lawrence added 14 points for Dalhousie, while Jarred Reid added 13 off the bench.

Matt Plunkett led Ottawa with 17 points, while Mike L'Africain added 16 points and seven assists a day after being named the CIS player of the year.

In the opener, Ejim finished 11-of-14 from the field and made four-of-six free throws to lead the second-ranked Ravens, who are looking for their sixth straight CIS title and 12th in the last 14 years.



Dalhousie Tigers' Jarred Reid sprints down the court to score after stealing the ball from Ottawa Gee-Gees' Brandon Robinson in Vancouver on Thursday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Connor Wood added 18 points for the winners, who outrebounded Thompson Rivers 54-37 and scored 24 points off turnovers.

At women's nationals in Fredericton, N.B., the Saint Mary's Huskies edged the Alberta

Pandas 53-52.

Elle Hendershot had 12 points and 16 rebounds to lead Saint Mary's to its win. The third-ranked Huskies outscored Alberta 37-25 in the second half to erase an 11-point half-time deficit.

The Huskies will play Saskatchewan on Saturday in semifinal play. Dalcyce Emmerson had 25 points and 17 rebounds to lead the second-ranked Saskatchewan past the No. 7 Ottawa Gee-Gees 73-62.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CIS HOCKEY FINALS

Parker Thomas scored in the fourth overtime, and the No. 2 Saskatchewan Huskies avoided an upset at the Canadian Inter-university Sport men's hockey tournament with a 302 win over No. 7 Carleton on Thursday at Scotiabank Centre in Halifax.

Thomas picked up a rebound at the edge of the crease and put a backhand shot into an open net at 6:11 of the fourth extra period in what became the longest CIS championship game in history.

"I talked to my centre-man before the draw, and told him I was going to drive to the net," Thomas said. "I got stopped on the first one, but I was able to put the rebound home. I don't remember much after that."

Levi Cable, on a power play, and Kohl Bauml also scored for Saskatchewan. Brent Norris and Brett Welychka scored for the Ravens. Jordan Cooke made 58 saves for the Huskies, while Patrick Killen turned aside 65 shots for Carleton.

"There is not much to say

The University Cup (at Halifax)

Friday, Quarter-finals:
QF3 - New Brunswick (5)
 vs. Western (4), 4 p.m.
QF4 - Saint Mary's (8) vs.
 Trois-Rivieres (1), 8 p.m.

Saturday, Semifinals:
Saskatchewan (2) vs. Winner QF2, noon; Winner QF3 vs. Winner QF4, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Third Place:
Semifinal Losers, 2 p.m.

Championship: Semifinal
Winners, 6:30 p.m.

after a loss like that," said Carleton coach Marty Johnston, adding his players are "an excellent group of young men."

Alberta played StFX in Thursday's other quarter-final late Thursday night, a game which was delayed by two hours due to the length of the opener.

UNB takes on Western and Saint Mary's faces off against top-ranked UOTR on Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sidney Crosby scored a pair of highlight-reel goals and the Pittsburgh Penguins rallied past the Carolina Hurricanes 4-2 on Thursday night for their fourth straight victory.

Crosby beat Eddie Lack with a slick backhander in the first and added a redirect in the second to extend his points streak to 10 consecutive games and



Sidney Crosby mobbed after scoring. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

reach the 30-goal plateau for the seventh time in his career. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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NHL's all-American worry

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

Bettman hopes Canadian fans keep watching post-season

With the rare prospect of an all-American NHL post-season looming large, Gary Bettman hopes Canadians still tune in to watch the battle for the Stanley Cup.

The NHL commissioner acknowledged in an interview there is a sense of uncertainty regarding TV ratings in Canada, with no Canadian teams likely to qualify for the playoffs for the first time since 1970.

Still, he was hopeful that fans north of the border would tune in regardless.

Bettman said local teams "tend to draw better" in terms of ratings.



U.S.-born commissioner Gary Bettman presents the Stanley Cup to Canadian Jonathan Toews in 2015. GETTY IMAGES

"But as long as the hockey is entertaining and exciting and competitive we're hoping and expecting that fans will tune

in and watch great hockey," he added.

The four lowest-placed teams in the NHL are Canadian, as

are six of the bottom 10. The Toronto Maple Leafs and Edmonton Oilers currently have the fewest points in the league, just behind the Calgary Flames and Winnipeg Jets.

Last season five clubs from Canada — Calgary, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Vancouver — qualified for the post-season.

One year earlier it was only one — Montreal, also the last Canadian team to capture the Stanley Cup in 1993.

Bettman said the wealth of Canadian talent should be enough to attract interest, as should the appeal of exciting, competitive hockey.

From Jonathan Toews to Drew Doughty to Jamie Benn to Patrice Bergeron and Steven Stamkos, Canadian players will indeed be well represented come playoff time.

"Fifty per cent of the players in this game are from Canada

“Fifty per cent of the players ... are from Canada.”

Gary Bettman

so for people to suggest that there isn't still a Canadian-centric focus I think is a little misleading," Bettman said.

As for all seven Canadian teams potentially missing out on the post-season for the first time in nearly 50 years, Bettman suggested it as a cyclical, if rare, event.

"This is a league of 30 teams," said Bettman.

"Last year there were five Canadian teams in the playoffs. It happens, though I don't think it's happened for a long time."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCCER

Liverpool gives boot to ManU in Europa League

A stunning solo goal by Philippe Coutinho helped Liverpool eliminate great rival Manchester United from the Europa League, reaching the quarterfinals with ease on Thursday.

Liverpool drew 1-1 with United at Old Trafford to seal a 3-1 aggregate victory, with Coutinho scoring the equalizer on the stroke of halftime.

Sevilla, seeking a third straight Europa League title, beat Basel 3-0 to advance by the same score on aggregate, and Dortmund won 2-1 win at Tottenham for 5-1 overall.

Sparta Prague eliminated Lazio, winning 3-0 away in the round's big upset. Athletic Bilbao knocked out Valencia. Other teams to go through were Villarreal, Shakhtar Donetsk and Braga. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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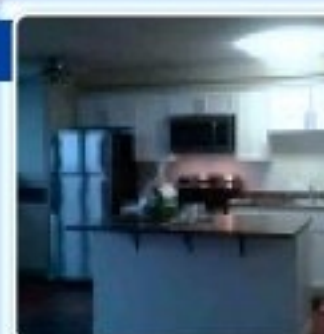
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- 24/7 Laundry Facilities

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT**



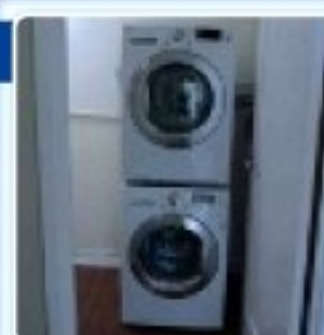
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RECIPE Veggie Sloppy Joes



PHOTO: MAAYA VISNVEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

- 1 tsp maple syrup
- 1/4 tsp cumin
- 1/4 tsp chili powder
- 1/4 tsp paprika
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup shaved cheddar

You won't miss the meat but will love the flavour upgrade of this classic comfort meal. Don't forget the napkins.

Ready in

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Makes: 4 Sloppy Joes

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 chopped red pepper
- 2 (14 oz) cans of black beans, rinsed
- 1 (14 oz) can of chick peas, rinsed
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 2 Tbsp red wine vinegar

Directions

1. In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the onions and peppers. Saute until the vegetables are softened.

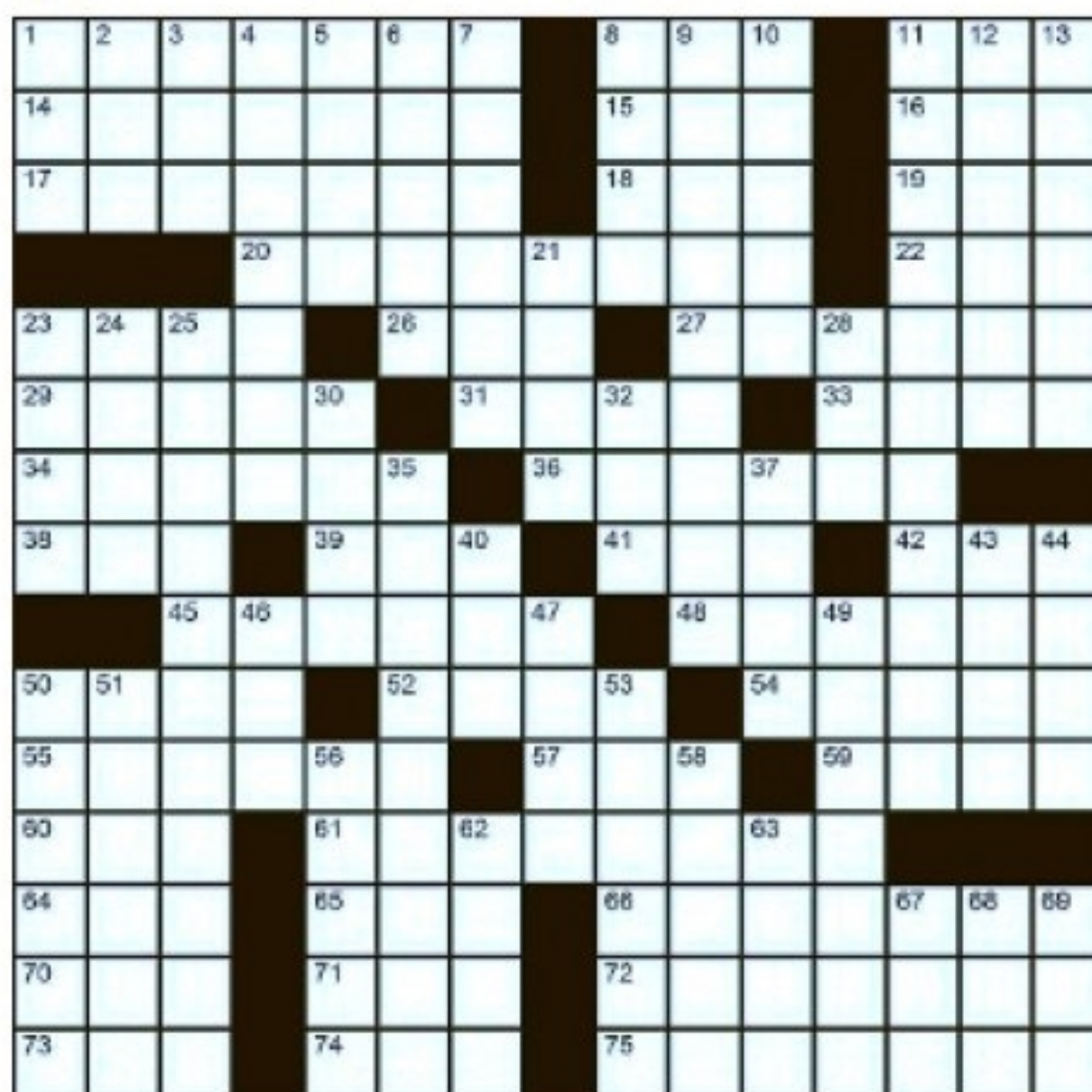
2. Add the beans, tomato sauce, vinegar, maple syrup, cumin, chili powder, paprika and salt. Simmer for 15 minutes.

3. Serve on toasted whole grain bun and sprinkle with cheddar cheese.

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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS

- Unwavering
- Butterfly logo co.
- Dripping on the tree bark
- Tributes
- Stock mkt. debut
- __la-la
- Fashionable
- Women's __ (1970s movement)
- Bard's evening
- Direct opposite as per North, to South
- "Jeff __" (Mid-2000s Canadian comedy series)
- Wee word
- __ Lanka
- Canadian actress Ms. Cuthbert
- McIntosh middles
- Pressure unit
- Some parrots
- New cop
- "Easy there...": 2 wds.
- Tolkien creature
- Alkali
- Business bigwig, briefly
- Howdies
- British actress, __ Bonham Carter
- Weightlifter's pride
- Howard of "Dallas"
- Fair
- Aired again
- Improve
- Li'l old MTV show
- Mr. Beatty's
- Do this at the auction
- Canadian canned soup brand
- Give it __ (Try)

- ...and now, with-out further __"
- "__ Flame" by The Bangles
- Snazzy auto
- Hollywood's Mr. Howard
- "The Beachcombers" star Bruno
- __ Francisco

- Lettered air-line, once
- British Invasion band

- Ms. Schumer
- Victor __, Investigative Reporter on CTV's "W5"
- Opposin'
- Aeries
- Casual top with jeans
- Simon's co-mem-

- Bug-built bugs capturer: 2 wds.
- The __ Peace Prize
- Howie Mandel played Dr. Wayne Fiscus on what 1982 to 1988 medical drama?: 2 wds.

- "Think" singer Ms. Franklin
- 'Giant' attractions at the Toronto Zoo
- Subatomic particle
- Land unit
- Benefit
- Sam Roberts song that goes "Been looking for peace but they're bringing you war": 2 wds.
- 1965 hit song, when doubled
- Part of a window
- Mythical bird
- Makeup kit item
- Pinot __ (Wine variety)
- Antacid brand
- Apple tablet
- Taxpayers' IDs in The States
- Mr. Wallach
- Sparkling wine city of Italy
- Big name in multivitamins
- BBQ sizzlers, Shish __ [var. sp.]
- 2001 Kate Winslet WWII-set movie
- Canadian songstress Lindi
- __-topper (Hit song)
- Approach nighttime
- __ fide
- Italian saint, Philip __
- Edward Snowden headlines org.
- Communication syst.
- __ __ for Lethbridge

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
The Sun moves into your birth sign at the weekend, so don't worry if you are feeling a bit under the weather at the moment because you will soon be back to your best.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If you feel the need to cut yourself off from those around you over the next few days then do so. It may seem rude but good manners are less important now than getting your head in the right place.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Your recent hard work has not gone unnoticed. People are impressed by your attitude and there could be a promotion coming your way in the near future.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
The Sun crosses the career angle of your chart on Sunday, so it won't be long before you get the chance to move up in the world. But don't be tempted to cut corners.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You may think you need to rip everything up and start again from scratch. But it isn't true and in fact would be a backward step. The good times will start in a matter of days, so be patient.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You have spent far too much in recent weeks and if you carry on there may be nothing left. The good news is you will discover a new source of income very soon.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
By the time the Sun enters your opposite sign of Aries on Sunday you should know for certain if a relationship is going to last or if it is best to go your separate ways.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The Sun's move into the work area of your chart in just a few days means you may need to take on new chores and responsibilities. But know when to say "no" — and mean it.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Certain events may have upset you but there is no point dwelling on them. In a matter of days they will no longer matter. The Sun's change of signs on the 20th will cheer you up to no end.

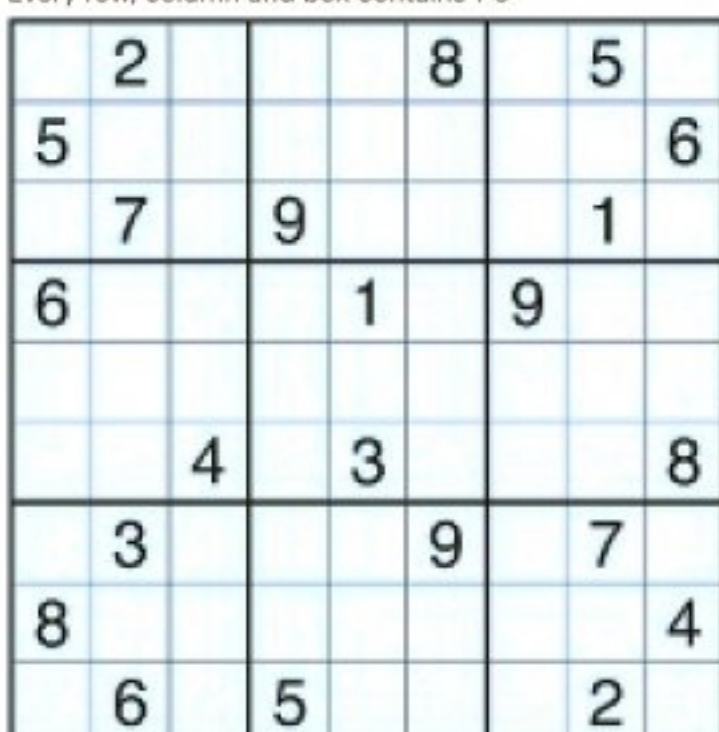
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The more you have been rushing here, there and everywhere in recent weeks, the more you must slow down and focus on matters closer to home. Give your full attention to partners and loved ones.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The past few weeks have not been easy but you stuck at your task and very soon you will get your reward. The pendulum is about to swing in your favour.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
By all means show sympathy for someone who is finding the going tough at the moment, and do what you can to help them.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

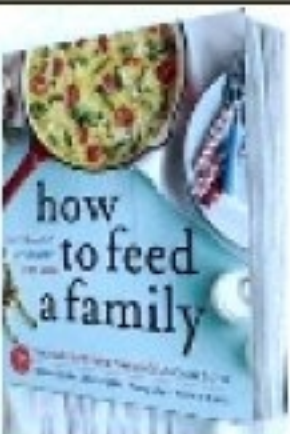
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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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2	1	4	3	8	5	9	6	7
3	6	5	1	9	7	2	8	4
8	7	9	6	4	2	3	5	1
1	5	3	8	2	9	7	4	6
4	9	7	5	3	6	8	1	2
6	2	8	4	7	1	5	3	9
7	8	6	9	1	3	4	2	5
5	4	2	7	6	8	1	9	3
9	3	1	2	5	4	6	7	8



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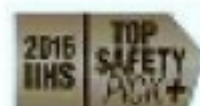
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